

THE WASHINGTON HERALD, SUNDAY, MARCH 21, 1920.

Society

By E. C. DRUM-HUNT

"President Wilson, it is unofficially reported, is preparing to receive the diplomatic corps. The reception will probably be held some time within the next ten days. On that occasion the President will see a number of ambassadors and ministers for the first time. These have been accredited to the United States since Mr. Wilson's illness."

It was with great interest that society read that paragraph in the newspapers last week, for the diplomatic corps is a very important factor in Washington society. More foreign governments are represented by embassies and legations in Washington than in any other capital in the world. In all, 42 countries have accredited representatives here. Besides these there are many unofficial representatives of nationalities seeking recognition from the American government.

Chief among these latter are representatives of the Irish, Ukrainians, Armenians, Lithuanians and Albanians. Only the states of Monaco and San Marino appear to remain unrecognized.

Canada was considering sending a diplomatic representative here, but it is said to have been scared off by the high cost of a diplomatic establishment in Washington.

Russia officially is represented by Boris Bakhmeteff, the Ambassador sent to this country by Kerensky shortly after the overthrow of the Czar, representing what he terms the "National Democratic Russian Government."

A large percentage of the members of the corps have never been able to present their credentials to the President. Though some of them have been in this country and acting as envoys, they haven't received by the President, so officially are yet unrecognized and appear in the diplomatic list issued monthly by the State Department as "appointed Ambassador (or minister)."

VISCONTI GREY RECEIVED
NO AUDIENCE WITH WILSON.

Viscount Grey came, officiated and departed without an audience with our Chief Executive. There has been some talk of his coming to see the President, but it is said that he is under a great deal of feeling, and that as the President has been able for some time to receive certain people, including royal visitors, Senators and such, he could have managed to have accorded the diplomats the opportunity of presenting their letters of credence or even of greeting them privately.

Envoys of ambassadorial rank, who in a quite special way represent not only their country and their government, but also in a personal as well as official sense their ruler, be he monarch or president of a republic, are entitled by international usage and comity, dating throughout centuries, to access at all times to the chief of the state to whom they are accredited.

Ambassadors are invested with the right of negotiating directly with the sovereign on behalf of their government instead of with his ministers. The authority to treat directly with the ruler has always been supposed to involve a high degree of confidence and to entitle the diplomat on whom it was conferred to semiroyal honors, which in more modern times have been extended to ministers plenipotentiary of the highest class.

In England the Ambassador of the United States can call at any time upon King George without having officially to request for an audience through the foreign office and thereby subjecting himself to all the delay incidental to red tape. In the same way if Ambassador Wallace, in Paris, wishes to confer with President Deschanel all that is necessary is for him to drive to the Elysee on the chance of finding him in or else to call up on the telephone the President's secretary general and ask for an appointment. It is the same at Madrid and at Rome, where Alfonso XIII and Victor Emmanuel III are accessible at all times to the foreign ambassadors, receiving them with marked cordiality and as distinguished and welcome guests, enjoying their hospitality.

NOT A NEW
CONDITION.

Not so in Washington! This state of affairs does not date from the beginning of the illness of

the President, nor can it be regarded as a consequence thereof. It originated as an entirely new departure in American official life, when Woodrow Wilson commenced his first term as President, now seven years ago. His predecessors kept to a great extent an open house. The foreign ambassadors and the principal European ministers plenipotentiary were always welcome there, and during the regime of Theodore Roosevelt went to join him in daily games of tennis on the courts of the Executive Mansion. The relations of America with the foreign powers benefited considerably by this cordiality.

The fact that the envoys who have come to this country since the President was taken ill—there are about a dozen such—are not functioning officially, it was thought would diminish the amount of entertaining done in compliance to the newcomers, but it didn't in the least. They performed their diplomatic duties, both official and social, just as though they had presented their credentials, and were entertained as much as if such had happened. In fact, the Diplomatic Corps has held the center of the social stage the greater part of the winter; certainly since New Year they have been the center of all of the formal entertaining. Every evening for weeks now there have been large dinner parties on the social calendars, and always some of them have been given by or for some diplomat or both.

If the President is going to receive these envoys of other nations shortly—and it is said that Ambassador, Sir Auckland Geddes, is going to leave England the tenth of April—it sounds very much as though the waiting list will be the most by the time he reaches these shores and he will be received immediately. I have heard that, like Viscount Reading and Viscount Grey, Sir Auckland is coming on the understanding that his tenure of office should be regarded in the light of a temporary mission, and that in due course he will be relieved here in order to take up the presidency of McGill University in Canada, to which he was appointed some time ago, and which is to be kept open for him in the meanwhile. Though, to the contrary, I have heard that he resigned from the presidency of the university when he accepted the appointment to come over here.

WASHINGTON EMBASSY
IMPORTANT TO ENGLAND.

The Washington embassy is regarded today by Great Britain as the most important mission of her diplomatic service, the emoluments of its incumbent amounting to \$100,000 a year, plus the use and maintenance of a handsomely furnished residence in Connecticut avenue, just double those of Lord Derby, her envoy in Paris. The embassy here is being completely overhauled—a member of the embassy staff speaking of it used the word "rebuilt"—to make it suitable for the five young children who will accompany Lord and Lady Geddes to Washington, four boys and one girl. It is a big, cold, forbidding looking building (usually spoken of as typical British) that would dampen the spirits, I should think, of even a child. But Lady Geddes has sent over detailed instructions to make the house and grounds suitable for the children, so perhaps it will soon assume a gayer atmosphere. Certainly the sight and sound of children, five of them, will awaken the big bird house.

Little Betty Spring-Rice was the last child to habit the embassy. She is one of the pleasantest of the many pleasant memories of the Spring-Rices. She used to spend much of her time in the embassy garden, often with a trowel digging away "for dear life." The Readings and Lord Grey didn't bring any children to the embassy. But the Readings had have quite a bit of overhauling done to the em-

Charming Foreigners Who Are Now Enjoying Washington Society

SIGNORA GEISSER CELESTIA DI
VEGLIASCO.

She was formerly Miss Margaret Erhart, of New York. Her husband is third secretary of the Italian Embassy here.

PRINCESS GARGARINE OF RUSSIA, whose husband has recently been attached to the Russian Embassy here.

MME. HUBRECHT.

Wife of Dr. J. B. Hubrecht, secretary of the Netherlands Legation. She is a newcomer to Washington.

bassy when they first took possession of it.

LADY GEDESSES WAS
AMERICAN BORN.

There has been some difference in the statements about the nationality of Lady Geddes, some saying she had American parents, others, Irish parents who lived for a while in America. Ronald Lindsay says she is an American, and he ought to know. She is the eighth wife of a diplomat assigned to Washington who was American born. Then the lesser members of the corps, many of them, have American wives.

France, Belgium, Italy, Spain and Sweden, of the European nations; Mexico and Brazil, of the Latin-American countries—each has an ambassador whose wife is a native American. But this was not always the fashion. Until the time of the twenty-sixth President of the United States, Theodore Roosevelt, it was not "diplomatic" to send a diplomat whose wife was an American. It was considered by many nations to be the height of folly to send to the capital of the presumptuous young republic an envoy who had wedded a daughter of the States.

Col. Roosevelt, unflinching foe of convention and obsolete customs, changed the viewpoint of Europe and put the American girl upon a new pinnacle. It all came about through several unfortunate episodes in American diplomatic circles.

GREAT BRITAIN FIRST
TO BREAK TRADITION.

Great Britain was the first to smash tradition and set a precedent. James Bryce came over, and he was more intimately connected with America than many predecessors by reason of the fact that his mother-in-law was an American. Not to be outdone by John Bull in the suave art of diplomacy, the then Kaiser sent over President Roosevelt's friend, Baron von Sternberg, and upon his death dispatched Bernstorff, who was fortified as a climber by his marriage with an American. (This asset failed to stand him good, however, upon a memorable day in April, 1918.) Other nations followed suit. In quick succession, as vacancies occurred, came ambassadors from France, Russia, the Netherlands, Denmark, Spain, Belgium and Greece at varying intervals.

Today the American woman stands higher than ever in favor as the ideal wife of an ambassador ticketed for Washington.

W. J. JESSERAND HAS REP-
RESENTED FRANCE 15 YEARS.

At the head of the foreign diplomatic corps stands the much-beloved dean of them all, M. Jean Adrien Antoine Jules Jesserand, Ambassador from the French republic, who has represented "La Belle France" uninterruptedly for the last eighteen years. By his side stands Mme. Jesserand, an American woman. Who will deny that she has been one of the instrumentalities in binding America and France ever closer through the greatest crisis that ever confronted her adopted nation? Mme. Jesserand was before her marriage Miss Eliza Richards, daughter of the late George T. Richards, of New England, and one of the founders of the banking house of Munroe & Co., of Paris. Through her mother, who was a Miss Kernochan, she is related to the New York family of that name. Of brilliant intellect, madame has been of invaluable aid to her distinguished husband in the many exacting duties that have confronted him during nearly two decades of service in Washington.

And such is true of all of these American wives of diplomats. It seems to me that if an attaché to an embassy or legation here has ambitions to return later in life as an ambassador or minister, one of the surest ways to accomplish it is to marry an American girl of high social position.

So far as I can recall the only other British Ambassador who had an American wife was Sir Michael Herbert, who married a Miss Wilson, sister of Mrs. Ogden Goelet and Mrs. Vanderbilt.

MME. DA GAMA WILL
SAIL FOR ENGLAND.

Speaking of American wives of foreign diplomats, I learned with interest that Mme. Domício da Gama, the former Mrs. Hearn, is planning to sail for England on April 24. At present Mme. da Gama is the guest of her close friend, Mrs. Elbert H. Gary, and they were passing much of their time at the Gary country estate down in Westbury,

Mrs. Gary has developed a sudden fondness for the country, and she stays down in Westbury, in preference to going into New York and occupying the great Gary town house on the Avenue, across from the George J. Gould mansion.

However, Mrs. Gary has her Fifth avenue home open and has given a number of entertainments there. Just the other evening she had a number of guests in for dinner, the guest of honor being Mme. da Gama.

On her arrival in London, Mme. da Gama will join her husband, the newly appointed Brazilian Ambassador to the Court of St. James.

Mme. da Gama is eminently fitted for the place which she will occupy for the place which she will occupy in London society. She is very fond of entertaining, and has established an enviable reputation as a hostess here in America.

Also her famous Russian diadem of diamonds will be an important addition to the great array of jewels worn by the social leaders of the British metropolis on opera nights at Covent Garden.

VISCONTI GREY PLANS
TO VISIT AMERICA AGAIN.

When Viscount Grey went home he intimated that he would return shortly in an official capacity. Thanks to a Washington physician, his eyesight was greatly improved and he liked America and said he would be back. Now it develops he is coming this summer to deliver a series of lectures on the League of Nations. He is president, you know, of the League of Nations Union of Great Britain, an unofficial organization something like the League to Enforce Peace, is, you know. When he was here in an official capacity he received many invitations to make addresses on the subject of the league of nations, but couldn't do it then because he hadn't presented his credentials—I think that was why he couldn't. At any rate, he is coming back unofficially to deliver the lectures. Judgment from all appearances, the league is going to be an issue in the forthcoming Presidential campaign, in which case will Viscount Grey care to lecture, do you think? For he would then be in the unenviable position of a foreigner "putting in the campaign."

What do you think? In an effort to rehabilitate the family fortunes his wife, the now widowed Lady Auckland, went into trade and opened a shop in Baker street, London, for house furnishing and decorating. It did not prove a profitable venture.

Just before the war it was announced in the London newspapers that the widowed Lady Auckland had taken a position as saleswoman in Selfridge's great American department store in London. Whether she remains with the firm or not, I am unable to say. She is the daughter of Col. C. M. Hutton, C. B., and a great-granddaughter of Arkwright, the famous inventor of the spinning frame, while Mrs. Sidons, the celebrated actress, was her grandmother.

To go back to England and the league of nations, the palatial London house which W. K. Vanderbilt

gave to his daughter, Consuelo, as a wedding gift when she became the Duchess of Marlborough has become the home of the British branch of the league of nations. The government has leased the mansion and official business already is being transacted there.

This house, which is situated in the heart of the fashionable Mayfair section in Curzon street, is one of the most costly in the city. I'm told it is built of marble and other stone in the French style, and from the outside looked more like a bank than a residence.

It is understood that the league of nations officials and employees are having troubles, despite the magnificence of their surroundings. The great and ornate ball-room, for example, while much admired from an artistic point of view, develops cyclonic drafts which cause much discomfort to the unlucky officials and clerks who are stationed in it.

In addition to this house the league of nations has also taken two other buildings in Piccadilly, since they needed more accommodations than the home of the duchess provided.

MARQUIS OF BLANDFORD
AND HON. MARY CADOGAN

A detailed description of the wedding of the Marquis of Blandford, son of the Duke and Duchess of Marlborough, and the Hon. Mary Cadogan, which took place in London February 17, has been received here, together with the list of bridal presents, which were many and costly.

The mother of the Marquis of Blandford gave the bride a diamond and pearl tiara, pearl necklace and pendant of aquamarines and diamonds. Mrs. O. H. P. Belmont, the mother of the duchess, gave the bride an emerald hatpin, and her grandson she gave two silver candelabra.

W. K. Vanderbilt, sr., presented his grandson with a clock, and Harold Vanderbilt, an uncle of the young marquis, gave four exquisite engravings. W. K. Vanderbilt, jr., gave a Louis Seize clock, a set of dining-room chairs and three Adam side tables. Mr. and Mrs. Frederick W. Vanderbilt's gift was a set of diamond and onyx sleeve links and waistcoat buttons. Mrs. Tiffany, his aunt, gave a Chinese porcelain lamp. His mother gave him a silver, furniture and mink watch, and his father a canteen of table silver and a traveling rug.

A unique feature of the church ceremony at historic St. Margaret's was the distribution of favors of white heather by the bridesmaids during the signing of the register.

After the ceremony a reception was held at 7 Grosvenor square, lent for the occasion by Viscount Farquhar, godfather of the bride, where the presents were on view. The King and Queen presented the bride with a diamond brooch and from Queen Alexandra she received a diamond pendant.

SEVERAL WILL JOIN
BRITISH PRINCE IN PANAMA.

Several of the younger members of the British Embassy staff left town last week to join their prince in Panama to make the trip on board the Renown through the Canal Zone with his royal highness. Their absence will probably mean that the nice little paper chases they have been having practically every Saturday will have to be omitted for a while. That "British Embassy crowd," which means also Miss Mildred Bromwell, Miss Olive Graef and that coterie of charming young girls who "play around" with the British attaches a great deal, and had such a good time when the Prince of Wales was here, have been having delightful rides and paper chases almost every Saturday.

Meanwhile, Washington is anxious to get acquainted with Mr. Colby and particularly with Mrs. Colby and the girls. Perhaps the girls interest society the most, for Mrs. Wilson's Cabinet has not furnished many young girls to society, and the going out of office of Franklin K. Lane and Carter Glass took two young girls out of the Cabinet circle.

Meanwhile the country is Secretary of State, Frank Lyon Polk, Undersecretary of State, who was Acting Secretary of State, can no longer serve in that capacity which terminated at the end of thirty months. There seems to be a difference of official opinion as to whether or not President Wilson can designate some government official to act as head of the State Department.

One of the surest signs that spring is about here, is the rapidly increasing number of horseback riders one meets in the parks these days. Tuesday evening will see the last of the indoor rides, the riding club members soon beginning the outdoor rides and paper chases which are a feature of their program every evening. The indoor rides have been the nicest informal parties of the winter. Everyone who goes always wants to attend again. The rides are interesting to watch as well as to participate in, the supper and dance that always follow are even more enjoyable. The music is fine, and Mrs. Frank's light, who has the parties in charge, makes an ideal hostess. Often the parties are too large; that is the only criticism that could possibly be made of them, but they became too large because they were so enjoyable. Several evenings ago there were over 125 guests there. People wear anything from riding togs to elaborate evening clothes. One of the wonderful sights of the rides and drills is Major Tiesman, military attaché of the Roumanian legation, who is an absolute master of the horse, handling his steed with more skill with his one hand

than most people ever learn to do with two. In the stall contests which are often a feature of the evening's rides, it is amusing to see the men being markedly, painfully, should say, polite rather than contest the places with the women riders.

PALM BEACH VISITORS
ARE RETURNING.

Other signs of spring are the returning of visitors from Palm Beach, the shopping trips to New York, the Easter bonnets seen on the streets and the talk of dress-makers and "everything." Then I hear the circus in coming—not to Washington, but to New York. It is to be there on March 19. What do you know about that? That is one sure sign that it is time for vernal poets to begin trilling, for pussy willow to burst its buttons, for the birds to flock back from the South—they have awakened me mornings for a fortnight now with their singing—for the planting of gardens and for rents to be redoubled.

One of the indoor sports of these pre-spring days is going to hearings at the Capitol. Everybody is doing it. If you try to get any of your friends on the telephone before luncheon these days you'll find it is practically a hopeless task. I'll wager for they are all up at the Capitol listening to our lawmakers argue on the treaty of peace and the league of nations and other matters for which all other matters had to "take a back seat." Mrs. Elbridge H. Moore for one is seen there daily. I've been told it is her favorite pastime and Washington's chief attraction for her; the thing that brings her here each winter from her New York home. She stays usually at Congress Hall Hotel so she will be convenient to the Capitol. Mr. Albert Strauss was up here several mornings last week and Mrs. Hawkins Hume, I know, gave up a bridge party last week to go up there. Throngs of people wait patiently in line before the gallery doors of the Senate, and in the matter, for often the Senate floor is almost deserted.

WASHINGTON ANXIOUS FOR
MR. COLBY AND FAMILY.

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee reported favorably last week on the nomination of Bainbridge Colby to be Secretary of State, which has been the subject of extensive hearings. Mr. Colby himself testified before them. He runs back and forth between New York and Washington every few days. His family evidently don't want to move from their quarters in New York until Mr. Colby assumes his duties in the Cabinet. Secretary Colby is anxious to be waiting to get acquainted with Mr. Colby and particularly with Mrs. Colby and the girls. Perhaps the girls interest society the most, for Mrs. Wilson's Cabinet has not furnished many young girls to society, and the going out of office of Franklin K. Lane and Carter Glass took two young girls out of the Cabinet circle.

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MUSIC PROMINENT
LAST WEEK.

Music played a tremendous part in society last week. Nearly every day had its concert, not to mention the week of extremely interesting opera that the Washington Opera Company put on at the Shubert-Garrick Theater. I take my hat off to Edouard Albin—and his first lieutenant, Mrs. Albin—for the wonders he has accomplished with the opera company with such material and against many obstacles, acting head of the State Department.

I attended the opening perform-

ment. Meanwhile a virtual embargo on foreign travel by American citizens is in effect. As passports must be signed by the Secretary or Acting Secretary of State, none can be issued. In the past few weeks from 600 to 800 passports have been issued daily, so if the Senate doesn't hurry a bit poor Mr. Colby will find passports piled sky high waiting for his signature by the time he is in office. It is believed to be the first time on record that the country has been without a Secretary of State, either actual or acting. Speaking of passports, have you heard from Paris that the committee trying to raise 6,000,000 francs to complete the American Hospital in Paris, which will have 100 beds, has decided to ask every American getting a passport to the United States to contribute \$1 toward the fund? The fund was started by Mrs. Robert Bacon in memory of her husband, formerly Ambassador to France, with a contribution of 4,000 francs. The committee hopes to complete the fund by next summer.

POLITICS FIRST IN
EVERYONE'S THOUGHTS.

Meanwhile politics and the Presidential campaign is foremost in everyone's thoughts. Whenever two or more people get together, be they men or women or both, politics soon becomes the topic of conversation. Though Washington hasn't a vote, we are intensely interested, for we are in the center of all the political excitement, in a way. Practically all of the would-be candidates are strongly identified with Washington in one way or another and are generally well known here. Everyone has his or her own ideas as to who will be the next President or who should be. And people care much more about the lines of the social columns, too, these days, if they stop to think a bit when they see that So-and-so entertained So-and-so, or notice the lists of guests at this or that Washington society and politics are so closely intertwined that nothing could ever separate them—likewise are society and business, to a great extent.

Among the names often discussed as Presidential possibilities is that of John W. Davis, our Ambassador at the Court of St. James. Both he and his wife are extremely popular in Washington and the remark that usually follows the mention of his name is something to the effect that he makes such a perfect diplomat, is so ornamental as well as useful it would be a shame to take him out of the London embassy to put him into the White House. He looks the part of a diplomat and his wife is such an efficient and altogether satisfactory ambassador that we are all quite proud of them. I have been told that Mr. Davis is planning to come home on a visit long; wrote to some of his friends to that effect. He wants to take a fortnight's leave in the south of France and then come on here for a while if his diplomatic duties will permit.

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I attended the opening perform-

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